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Letter

Heal Thyself

I observe with dismay that Great Britain has been assigned a place alongside Canada as a so-called saboteur of U.S. foreign policy, by reason of its decision to trade with Cuba.

I will not comment on the merits of the U.S. policy, but simply point out to you that it is inconsistent with U.S. conduct, and that this country is asking others to do something which it has failed to do up to now by itself.

Early in this argument, when Canada was sustaining roughly the same kind of abuse now directed toward the British, the Canadians deemed it advisable to learn the exact truth about the United States own trading relationships with Cuba.

We discovered that U.S. exports to Cuba in every year since Castro took power exceeded Canadian exports to Cuba, and those from Britain and France as well. For example, U.S. exports to Cuba in 1963 totalled $37 millions; the figures for Canada are $11.1 millions; Britain, $5.3 millions and France, $5 millions.

U.S. officials plead that this arises from ransom paid for the Bay of Pigs prisoners. Nevertheless, U.S. exports were higher in the preceding year as well. The figures for 1962 are: U.S., $13.4 millions; Canada, $10.8 millions; Britain, $5 millions; France, $2 millions.

Because of such facts, we are inclined to take a jaundiced view of U.S. protests. I leave it to my U.S. colleagues to explain why these figures, freely obtainable from official U.S. sources here, have not been given the exposure they deserve in discussions of Cuban trade.

Physician, heal thyself.

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